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WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 29, 1954

Beautiful, sunny day.

Delegation meeting at 9:30. All sorts of committees have been established.

Plenary session at 11:00.

John Hughes and I lunched at Bucks. Thereafter, it having turned cold, I bought a sweater and a fawn-colored waistcoat, before going to the afternoon plenary. Things happened. After Dulles had made an excellent declaration on United States assurances (he would advise the President to give them provided a satisfactory agreement were reached), Eden, in a masterful understatement of its importance, announced that (subject to relatively minor reservations) HMG would maintain its armed forces on the continent at present combat effectiveness if the Conference were successful.

When we adjourned for tea, the mood of most delegates was jubilant. Mendès-France spoke to me in enthusiastic terms about the reception Eden's remarks would receive in France.

This announcement of HMG's policy is historic, for never before in peacetime has the U.K. contracted any such engagement. From the standpoint of those devoted to European unity, it is a bit sad to reflect how easily this present British commitment would have carried the EDC to completion.

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